*Our ref: inyrvar/SPP*

*Date: 13th May 2016*

*Dear Parent/Carer*

***Thornton Primary School***

***Reduction to Published Admission Number for Reception Places in September 2017***

*I am writing to inform you about a proposed change to the published admission number at Thornton Primary School for entry to Reception in September 2017.*

*It has been considered by the Local Authority, the Governing Body and the Leadership Team of the school that a reduction in the admission number from 30 to 0 for 2017 should be sought from the Schools Adjudicator. The request for this change will help the school effectively manage their site with a view to improve the overall education offer. The change to the admission number will result over time in the removal of the infant provision at the school. Separate statutory proposals will be issued in the future for this purpose.*

*We would like to hear from current and future parents on this proposal. The change to the admission number from 30 to 0 will not affect the current pupils at the school.*

*When Thornton became an all through primary school it was to enable the Local Authority to address the need for places within the Hodge Hill constituency. Feasibility studies and different option studies were carried out for ways to provide the additional places. The only option available at the time was for an expansion of Thornton Junior School. Whilst the expansion served the purpose at the time and addressed the need for places, having a primary school with one form of entry (one class per year) at the infant phase and five forms of entry at the junior phase has proved problematic for the following reasons:*

* ***Management & Resourcing*** *- The managing and resourcing of the current configuration of the school has proven to be very difficult and increasingly unviable.*
* ***Standards & Attainment*** *–As the school continues on their school improvement journey it would be more beneficial for resources to be focused on improving the attainment and standards in the junior school, which is where the school has the greater expertise and capacity in terms of resources.*
* ***School Community Cohesion*** *- The recent OFSTED inspection found that the location of the reception and year 1 class being situated in an annex building across the road from the main building has caused these year groups to become isolated.*
* ***School Buildings*** *– The building solution that was provided has not proved to be the most efficient to run and manage. Some of the school buildings are increasingly becoming unfit for purpose and the current set up of the school does not allow for a natural progression of year groups.*

*There will be no displacement of current pupils. All the existing infant classes will work their way through the school until they leave the school at the end of year six.*

*The Local Authority is aware that this will leave a gap in the locality and is currently working with another school in the local area to address this gap.*

*As the schools admission arrangements and the schools admission number has been determined for September 2017 we are applying to the Office of The School Adjudicator for a variation to the number from 30 to zero for September 2017 because of the significant reasons outlined above.*

*The consultation will run from 16th May 2016 for six weeks to 24th June 2016. If you wish to make comments/objections on the Local Authority’s proposal to reduce the admission number you may do so through the following website:* [*www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/thornton*](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/thornton)*primary*

*Or, by writing to the following address;*

*School Organisation Team*

*Education & Skills Infrastructure*

*PO Box 15843*

*Birmingham B2 2RT*

*Following this consultation, all comments received will be forwarded along with the proposal to the Office of The School Adjudicator for a decision. We will notify you of the decision of the Adjudicator when this has been made.*

*Yours faithfully,*

***Sue Simmons, Mr Amjid Ali,***

***Headteacher. Chair of Governors.***